

Fort Sheridan Non-Commissioned Officers'  
Quarters (Building No. 46)  
Northeast corner of Ronan and Lyster Rds.  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-15

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' QUARTERS  
(Building No. 46)

## FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/15-Location:

On the northeast corner of Ronan and Lyster Roads  
Across from Post Headquarters (Building No. 140).  
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 432760. 4673680.

Present Owner  
and Occupant:

United States Army.

Present Use:

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters.

Significance:

One of three similar two-family houses designed by Holabird and Roche for non-commissioned officers. These houses document early efforts by the army to provide decent housing for non-commissioned officers and their families, and Holabird and Roche's skill in providing an innovative solution to the problem.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Andrew Bock, Highland Park, Illinois.
5. Original plan and construction: A double, one-and-one-half story house with a steeply pitched gable roof and the two entrances off inset porches in the long side. The ridge of the roof runs east-west. The walls are constructed of buff-cream brick, and the gable ends are shingled. Large double dormers on the facade and rear provide light to the second floor.
6. Alterations and additions: The exterior of the house has had no major modifications. A basement window has been infilled with brick. The two front porches have been screened. In 1936 the interior of the house was renovated and painted.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Manuscript plans and elevations. n.d.

2. Old views:

Views of Fort Sheridan, ca. 1897, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reference No. 92-F-61A-10, 92-F-61A-11.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92, (contains specifications), National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Holabird and Roche design for a double house for non-commissioned officers and their families is distinguished by large central double gabled dormer on both front and rear facades. The building shows no influence of any particular style but in design can be considered a precursor of the bungalow which achieved its greatest popularity in the early 20th century.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is one-and-one-half stories high with a full basement. It measures 53' by 37' and has eight bays across the facade. There are two rear entryways, each measuring 6' by 12'.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction: The first story level is buff-cream colored brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers to one of headers on the sides of the building and six rows of stretchers to one of headers on the front. Gray cement asbestos shingles cover the gable ends.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Porches: There are two inset porches on the front. A shingled pediment over the entrance to each porch has a denticulated soffit. The porches sit on brick piers. Wood lattices cover the interstices. Each porch is reached by a large stone step and a flight of wooden stairs with wooden railings painted gray. The wood posts and balusters are painted beige, and each porch is completely screened.
6. Chimneys: There are three brick chimneys: one interior central chimney on the ridge of the roof constructed of yellow brick and two exterior end chimneys constructed of buff-cream brick.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doors on the facade, one opening off each of the porches. The one on the western half of the facade, Section A, is paneled wood with a single light. The one on the eastern half of the facade, Section B, is paneled wood with six lights.

There are two doors in each of the rear entryways, one providing access into the first floor level and one into the basement. The doors on the first level are reached by wood stairs painted gray with one large stone step at the bottom of each flight. The stairs rest on brick piers and a flat wood roof projects over them. The basement doors have a stone step which also serves as the door sill. Above each basement door is a high rectangular transom with four lights.

- b. Windows: Four second story windows in the double dormer dominate the facade. At the first story level on the facade and the gable ends the windows have no arched lintels. The windows on the rear of the house and on all sides at the basement level have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels. There are also four windows in the shingled double dormer at the rear of the house. Two of them, however, are very small.

The windows, with the exception of a few of the basement windows, are double hung sash. The lights vary from three over two on the facade to two over two and one over one on the sides and rear of the building. The full size windows in the basement have light wells. Some of the basement windows are infilled with brick. The window sills are concrete. The frames are painted beige.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gabled roof is covered with cement asbestos shingles.
- b. Dormers: Large, double gabled dormers, one on the facade and one on the rear are shingled. Each contains four windows. Dormers on both front and rear have overhangs, with supporting brackets at each end.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: A double house with identical entrances and floor plans except that they are reversed.

The main entrance leads into the living room. The kitchen and the dining room are at the rear of the house with the stairs to the second floor between the living room and the dining room.

The second floor has a large bedroom in the front which is made more spacious by the overhang of the central dormer. There are two other bedrooms and a bath which open off of a small, central stairhall.

2. Stairways: An enclosed, single-run stairway with plain wooden balusters and railings painted off white.

3. Flooring: The original hardwood floors are in place in both Sections A and B. The boards are 2-1/4" across. In both sections, part of the floors are covered with wall-to-wall carpeting and linoleum tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster painted an off white color.
5. Doorways and doors: The interior of 46A has segmental arched doorways from one room to another on the first floor. In 46B the doorways are squared off and framed.
6. Decorative features and trim: In 46A the fireplace has a rectangular opening with a red brick surround and a fluted wood architrave painted an off white. A separate mantelshelf is attached to the wall above. The floor in front of the fireplace is black ceramic tile.

In 46B the fireplace has a rectangular opening with a red brick surround and molded architrave trim. The front of the fireplace is red tile.

7. Mechanical equipment: The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces south with the ridge of the roof running east-west. The house is situated on the corner of Lyster and Ronan Roads across from the Post Headquarters (Building 140).
2. Outbuildings: A two-car garage of yellow brick with a gable roof of cement asbestos shingles is located behind the house slightly to the east.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the Fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO  
FORT SHERIDAN, NON-COMMISSIONED  
OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING NO. 46)  
Fort Sheridan Historic District  
Northeast Corner of Ronan and Lyster Roads  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013